GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1452
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
WHO REPORT ON BLINDNESS
Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 per cent cases of blindness are caused due to ultra violet rays as per the report of the World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any plan to make people aware of ill effect of ultra violet rays; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

a) to c):- World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates suggest that up to 20 per cent of Cataracts may be caused by overexporadiation. However, WHO further specifies that 5 per cent of all cataract related disease burden is directly attributable to ultra violet rays (UVR) exposure. Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness, public awareness is being created through IEC activities about damaging effects of UVR by promoting use of sun protectants, e.g., hats, sunscreen and sunglasses , protective spectacles for welders etc to protect eyes from UVR and heat of the sun.